

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 AID-05 L-02 OMB-01 /058 W

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R 100734Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: MAY 1 LABOR DAY CONFIRMED TARGET DATE FOR PHILIPPINE
LABOR UNIFICATION

REF: MANILA 4228 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: MAY 1 LABOR DAY IS DEFINITELY TARGET DATE
FOR FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT LABOR UNIFICATION BY PRESIDENT
MARCOS. PROPOSED NTUC UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WOULD INITIALLY
GROUP SOME 20 PLUS LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. FORMATION 10 TO 15
INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS WOULD BE NEXT STEP IN RESTRUCTURING
PROCESS. ALTHOUGH TEMPTATION WILL NATURALLY BE GREAT FOR
GOP ATTEMPT USE NEW ORGANIZATION FOR ALL KINDS ACTIVITIES,
WE ARE HOPEFUL FINAL RESULT WILL BE UNIFIED AND INDEPENDENT
LABOR MOVEMENT COMPARATIVELY FREE FROM GOVERNMENT DOMINATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. LABATT MEETING WITH ALU PRESIDENT DEMOCRITO MENDOZA
APRIL 9 CONFIRMED LABOR RESTRUCTURING INFORMATION PROVIDE
EMBASSY FEW DAYS EARLIER BY ACTING LABOR SECRETARY AMADO
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INCIONG (REFTEL).MENDOZA, LEADER OF STRONGEST AND MOST

DYNAMIC TRADE UNION IN PHILIPPINES, SET FOLLOWING SCENARIO.

2. SELECT WORKING GROUP OF 8 TOP LABOR LEADERS HAD MET APRIL 7 TO PUT FINAL TOUCHES TO CONSTITUTION OF PROPOSED NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES (NTUC) UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION. TARGET DATE FOR FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT LABOR UNIFICATIONS BY PRESIDENT MARCOS IS DEFINITELY MAY 1 LABOR DAY. INITIAL MEMBERSHIP TO BE LIMITED TO TRADE UNIONS HAVING MINIMUM 10,000 MEMBERS AND 10 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS. LABOR WORKING GROUP WILL MEET WITH LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE APRIL 18, IMMEDIATELY AFTER LATTER'S RETURN FROM ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE, IN ORDER REACH FINAL AGREEMENT REGARDING ELIGIBLE UNIONS AND COMPOSITION NTUC INTERIM LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH ALL IMPORTANT DECISIONS WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT BY CONSENSUS, LABOR LEADERS NEVERTHELESS PLANNING CONVENE SMALL TOKEN FOUNDING CONVENTION APRIL 26 OR 27 TO PUT TENTATIVE STAMP OF APPROVAL ON NTUC. FULL-FLEDGED CONVENTION WOULD BE CALLED AT LATER DATE.

3. CEZAR LEGAYADA (PRESIDENT, FUR) TOLD EMBASSY NTUC WILL BE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS: PRESIDENT (ALMOST CERTAINLY ROBERTO OCA), SECRETARY GENERAL, AND 9 VICE PRESIDENTS. IN DEFERENCE TO MENDOZA'S STATURE, HE WILL BE GIVEN "PRESTIGIOUS TITLE", SAID LEGAYADA. OTHERS WHO WILL ALMOST SURELY HAVE PLACE IN LEADERSHIP INCLUDE TAN (FFW), INTERTAS (PTUC), LERUM (NLU), PADILLA (MINERS), TUPAZ (TUPAS), MONTEMAYOR (FFF), GUEVARA (PAFULU), AND LEGAYADA HIMSELF (SEE ALSO MANILA 12356, OCTOBER 16, 1974).

4. COMMENT: ABOVE GROUND RULES INDICATED NTUC WOULD INITIALLY GROUP SOME 20 PLUS LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. UNDER ONE INDUSTRY/ONE FEDERATION CONCEPT, FORMATIONS OF 10 TO 15 INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS WOULD BE NEXT STEP IN RESTRUCTURING PROCESS. STRONG PRESSURE FROM DOL TO EFFECT MUCH-DELAYED LABOR UNIFICATION BY MAY 1, HAS UNFORTUNATELY FORCED LABOR TO DESIGNATE NTUC LEADERSHIP BY APPOINTMENT RATHER THAN MORE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIVE PROCESSES. ALTHOUGH TEMPTATION WILL NATURALLY BE GREAT FOR GOP ATTEMPT USE NEW ORGANIZATION FOR ALL KINDS ACTIVITIES, WE ARE HOPEFUL FINAL

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RESULT WILL BE UNIFIED AND INDEPENDENT LABOR MOVEMENT COMPARATIVELY FREE FROM GOVERNMENT DOMINATION.

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